

Amendment No. 11 to H.R. 4350. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 271—Amdt. No. 11 to H.R. 4350 on agreeing to the Tlaib amendment.

HONORING JULIE AND PETER
BENDER

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Julie and Peter Bender, who will be recognized as the 2021 Moorestown Citizens of the Year.

Julie and Peter Bender have owned Moorestown Hardware for 20 years. Operated by these two Moorestown natives, the hardware store offers something for everyone with a wide selection of materials and tools, plus puzzles and popcorn. However, residents of Moorestown will know that their business is much more than a store—it's an extension of Julie and Peter's commitment to community service.

Throughout the year, you can find Julie and Peter working to support a wide array of community efforts that range from fundraising on behalf of scout groups and local organizations to supporting institutions such as the Moorestown Community House. Their business is routinely staffed by local high school students and is a part of a local program that hires special needs students, each of them amplifying the themes of kindness and hard work.

The Benders' support and dedication to their community have made a lasting impact on Moorestown, whether it's by donating 10 percent of their Small Business Saturday profits to local institutions or by donating a grand piano that has been used to teach thousands of children how to play.

Coretta Scott King once said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." The Benders live and breathe their store and the town that supports them. Julie and Peter Bender are shining examples of service, and I commend them for receiving this award and their continued involvement in strengthening Moorestown.

TADD OVERSTREET

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tadd Overstreet of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving both the City of Wheat Ridge's 17th Annual Cultural Commission Award and Sustainability Award for his contributions through his coffee shop, Stylus and Crate.

Whether it be through public programming or the display of art, the Cultural Commission Award aims to recognize those who promote and encourage culture in the Wheat Ridge

community. Tadd has been engaged with providing the residents of Wheat Ridge with an enjoyable, cultural experience through his local coffee shop, Stylus and Crate, which seeks to provide its customers with a unique experience integrated with vinyl and art. Located at the BartaHouse in the heart of Wheat Ridge, Stylus and Crate serves up a mix of coffee, music, and art while also engaging in sustainable, environmentally friendly practices. The coffee shop uses coffee from local Denver companies and ensures their responsible sourcing practices have a positive impact on our community and our state.

Congratulations to Tadd Overstreet and Stylus and Crate Coffee Shop for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving these awards.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN J.
WHITT

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late John J. Whitt, who ably served as Legislative Director and then Chief of Staff to two of our former colleagues from Guam: Congressman Robert A. Underwood and Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo, respectively. Sadly, John died from cancer at the age of 64 on September 16, 2021. His funeral Mass was celebrated this morning at Our Lady of the Chesapeake Catholic Church in Pasadena, Maryland, where his family and many friends gathered to memorialize his life and offer prayers of thanksgiving for his public service. I was fortunate to be among them as my husband, Fred, and I were friends with John for many years.

John was well known to the territorial Delegates and their staffs in the House as he was a strong collaborator and visionary when it came to joining forces and forging consensus—where appropriate and possible—to advance Federal policy to improve the quality of life for Americans residing in the territories and to enhance understanding in Washington about indigenous culture and the way of life in the Pacific islands.

Born on October 15, 1956, to the late Charles and Christina Whitt, John was immensely proud of his CHamoru heritage and his upbringing in Barrigada, Guam. He graduated in 1974 from Father Duenas Memorial School in Chalan Pago, Guam, and in 1978 from the United States Air Force Academy, having been nominated for appointment there by Guam's first Delegate to Congress, the late Antonio B. Won Pat. Thereafter, John served our country as a B-52 pilot. But his other love, of politics, lured him back to his home island of Guam. One of his mentors, the late Colonel Edward Diego "Eddie" Reyes, USAF, who was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor on a winning ticket with the late Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo in 1982 recruited John to work on their gubernatorial campaign. It was on the campaign trail that Governor Bordallo, and his wife, Madeleine, took notice of John's sharp

intellect and keen political instinct. Not long after being sworn into office, Governor Bordallo tapped John to be his Chief of Staff at a tender young age of 27. After Governor Bordallo's term ended, John embarked on a short career as a commercial regional jet service pilot in the Southeast United States.

When Congressman Underwood was sworn into office in 1993, he brought John on board as part of his legislative team. In the 1990s, John helped advance the Guam Commonwealth Act for consideration by the House Natural Resources Committee and the Clinton Administration and assisted with Congressman Underwood's successful efforts to return excess lands taken by the Federal government to the people of Guam. When Typhoon Paka struck Guam in 1997, John was tapped by Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez and Lieutenant Governor Madeline Z. Bordallo to help coordinate the GovGuam response with FEMA. Thereafter, John returned to Washington—this time to serve as the Governor's liaison in town. When Lieutenant Governor Madeleine Bordallo was elected as Guam's first woman Delegate to Congress in 2002, she tapped John to serve as her Chief of Staff. John served in that capacity for her first seven terms helping her advance the Guam war claims legislation toward its eventual enactment and to provide for an orderly and balanced realignment of military forces on Guam.

John was a longtime, active member of the Guam Society of America, Inc., here in Washington, D.C. He was a consistent, consoling presence whenever one of the elders in the community passed away. John loved to lift our hearts in song and was fond of joining in the choir on special occasions. He would recite the CHamoru hymns and prayers. He was a gifted speechwriter and political strategist with an appreciation for history. He loved politics, the U.S. Air Force, to fly, his home village of Barrigada, and Guam. Most of all he loved his family, especially his brothers and sisters and his numerous nephews and nieces. He is predeceased by his parents and his siblings, Albert, Edwin, Emmett, and Julie Sisson. He is survived by his sisters, Frances Lucero (Larry) and Arlene Osorio (David), and his brother Jim Whitt (Debbie), and his nephews and nieces.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to remember John for his contributions to this institution as one of its staff members and for the positive force he made for the betterment of my constituents and our fellow brothers and sisters residing in the other territories. On behalf of the people of American Samoa, I offer our condolences to his family and to our former colleagues, Congressman Underwood and Congresswoman Bordallo, on whose staff he served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, the vote closed prior to me being able to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 268.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today marks a very important event—the 60th anniversary of the Peace Corps. On September 22, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed the Peace Corps Act (Public Law 87–293). To date, more than 240,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 142 countries around the world. Prior to the global COVID–19 pandemic, there were nearly 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers serving in 61 countries. Today, Peace Corps volunteers stand ready to return to their crucial work once it is safe and prudent to do so.

Like successive generations of young Americans, my wife Patti and I answered President Kennedy's call and served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia from 1966 to 1968. As co-chair of the Congressional Peace Corps Caucus, I am proud to continue working in support of the Peace Corps' mission, its volunteers, and the indelible impact their service has on the lives of so many around the world.

And so today we commemorate 60 years of Peace Corps. We celebrate over 240,000 Peace Corps volunteers who have served around the world, and we celebrate those who have worked to fulfill the three goals both during and after their volunteer service: 1) To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; 2) To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and 3) To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

As Peace Corps volunteers have returned to America, they have continued to serve over their lifetimes. They serve as volunteers at twice the rate of other Americans. They are in our nation's schools as educators. They are in community programs as leaders and mentors across the country. And a few are even found in the United States Congress.

Today, there are global leaders of many countries who have been taught by Peace Corps volunteers in their high schools, in their grammar schools, or in their universities. They have a very special understanding of America because of the Peace Corps. They know Americans. They know that Americans have a big heart, and they have a desire to see progress, economic and social progress, in every country of this world.

The benefits of the Peace Corps at home and abroad are undeniable. Congress last reauthorized the Peace Corps in 1999 (Public Law 106–30), which expired at the end of fiscal year 2003. Now more than ever, Congress must support the Peace Corps' mission and realize President Kennedy's vision of generations of young Americans, ready to serve their nation and make the world a better place.

The bipartisan "Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2021" (H.R. 1456), which I introduced earlier this year on National Peace Corps Day (March 1), would do just that by providing additional federal resources to better support current, returning, and former Peace Corps volunteers. This critical legislation will

help the agency and volunteers impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic.

H.R. 1456 builds upon the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–256) and the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–57). The bill guarantees additional health insurance coverage for returned volunteers immediately following their service and requires the Peace Corps to better facilitate long-term public and private health insurance coverage options for returned volunteers. The bill also increases the federal workers' compensation rate for all Peace Corps volunteers injured or disabled during their service and strengthens protections of volunteers against reprisals or retaliations for reporting wrongdoing or malfeasance.

President Kennedy understood in 1961 that the Peace Corps would "permit our people to exercise more fully their responsibilities in the great common cause of world development." I can think of no better way to honor the 60 years of Peace Corps service than for this Congress to pass the bipartisan "Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2021" (H.R. 1456) to advance that vision into the 21st century.

To all the current and returned Peace Corps volunteers, I thank them for their commitment to serving others on this, the 60th anniversary. Our work continues.

WEST 38

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize West 38 of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's 17th Annual Reinvestment Award.

The award is given to a Wheat Ridge business that has reinvested significant resources into our community. West 38 is a new apartment complex in the heart of Wheat Ridge that provides market-rate housing to our community. With an impressive 165 units, many residents of Wheat Ridge will be able to call West 38 home for years to come. They also have a wide array of amenities for their tenants. Their beautiful development is a welcome addition to the housing market and our community.

Congratulations to West 38 for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving these awards.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the Peace Corps Act and the dedicated heroes who work tirelessly to bring a positive change in communities across the world.

President Kennedy signed the Peace Corps Act into law in 1961 and presented the opportunity for American citizens to be innovators

and trailblazers in communities abroad. In the last 60 years, over 240,000 American citizens have humbly worked across the globe with local leaders to meet the needs of the host country's communities.

It makes me proud to know that for more than a decade, California has led the nation in recruiting Peace Corps Volunteers. Since 1961, 31,752 Californians have decided to share their heart, creativity, and ingenuity in over 140 countries. Our nation is thankful for the Peace Corps volunteers who go to their host country to bring a greater understanding of American values. And we can't forget the lessons that volunteers learn during their time abroad, and how their service helps them become more compassionate leaders back home. Peace Corps volunteers don't only serve as ambassadors for the global community but also as role models for a younger generation in the U.S. I hope their passion to serve others continues to transform and inspire our communities.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic temporarily suspending all operations in 2020 and evacuating all 7,000 volunteers across the world, the Peace Corps stands at the ready to once more promote peace and friendship in every corner of the world.

So, I want to take this moment to say thank you, not just to the men and women from California in the Peace Corps, but also to all those who serve and have served proudly with the Peace Corps.

Today, Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the Peace Corps Act and the men and women who intrepidly go out into the world to bring change and peace through hard work and American values.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. NAVY CORPSMAN MAXTON "MAX" SOVIAK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to U.S. Navy Corpsman Maxton "Max" Soviak of Berlin Heights, Ohio. Max, always faithful, became one of the 13 heroes from the Navy, Army, and Marine Corps who gave their lives on August 26, 2021 at Kabul Airport in service to our country.

Corpsman Soviak was 22 years old, not even old enough to remember the terror attacks of 9/11 that spurred the war in which he would later be deployed.

And yet, at just 18, Max took it upon himself to answer the Nation's call to preserve and protect the blessings of liberty.

Reflecting upon his life, we bear witness to a young man who was beloved by friends and neighbors in his close-knit hometown of Berlin Heights, Ohio.

He excelled in school, was named to the honor roll, and earned a two-year certificate in electrical technology from the EHOVE Career Center.

He thrived in wrestling, football, Boy Scouts, and the school band.

And he was adored beyond measure by his parents and 12 siblings.

Max embodied the best of our Nation, a man of many passions, who was lively, strong,